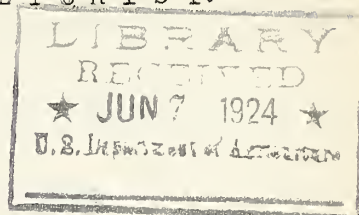


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THE EXTENSION HORTICULTURIST.

June 1, 1924.



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* Conducting horticultural extension work in a state *
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* without a specialist is about the same proposition as hold- *
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* ing a school without a teacher. The work of the specialist *
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* is of increasing importance and the requests for his help *
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* are becoming more and more numerous. The people do not *
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* always have the confidence in the local leaders that they *
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* have in the state or National specialists and the service *
*
* they render is necessary to make the work effective. *
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Office of Horticultural Investigations
and Extension Service Cooperating,
U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

Fruit Prospects as of May 26, 1924.

On May 21, we sent letters to the extension horticulturists in the states east of the Mississippi River, asking for reports on fruit crop prospects as of May 26. Replies have been received and are given in condensed form here. In most of the states the season is extremely late, wet and cold. It is still very cool in the vicinity of Washington, D. C. and heavy rain has fallen nearly every day in May.

Vermont - M. B. Cummings reporting.

Season more than 10 days behind the average, orchards mostly in pink stage, apparently full set of blossom buds throughout the State. Too early to estimate the crop.

New Hampshire - G. F. Potter reporting.

Present estimate is 125 per cent of 1923 fruit crop.

Massachusetts - F. E. Cole reporting.

Apparently a very good bloom throughout the State, but it is too early to estimate the probable crop.

Connecticut - W. H. Darrow reporting.

Peaches promise 90 per cent of a full crop at this time except in northern part of State outside the peach belt. Apples in bloom now and all varieties except Baldwin blossoming well with prospect of 90 per cent of a full crop. Grapes, cherries and plums promise 100 per cent of a full crop.

New York - Joseph Oscamp reporting.

Weather very wet and cold, spring probably latest in 25 or 30 years. Too early for anything but a general forecast of fruit crop. Peaches have good bloom in safe peach territory. Pears, plums and cherries have good bloom. Apples generally have heavy bloom, except Baldwin which has light bloom or none.

Pennsylvania - Paul Thayer reporting.

The State Department of Agriculture on May 1st reported on fruit prospects as follows: Apples 94 per cent, peaches 89 per cent, pears 92 per cent, plums 92 per cent, and cherries 92 per cent. From trips over the State, I feel that these figures are not far from correct.

New Jersey - A. F. Mason reporting.

Apples have just gone out of bloom in the northern part of the State and it is too early to tell much about the set of fruit in southern Jersey. Prospects are for 70 per cent of last year's fruit crop. Yellow Transparent, Starr, Wealthy and Oldenburg have a light set. Williams and Cravenstein have a good set. The bloom on Delicious, Grimes and Baldwin was light, other winter varieties had heavy bloom. The weather during blooming time was very unfavorable for pollination.

Delaware - C. A. McCue reporting.

In general, the prospect for a fruit crop is good, larger than last year's crop. Yellow Transparent, Early Ripe, Williams, Rome Beauty and Winesap appear to be shy. Paragon, Stayman Winesap, Grimes, Jonathan and Lily seem to promise a full crop. Late blooming varieties caught by cold wet weather probably not well pollinated.

Maryland - S. B. Shaw reporting.

Unfavorable weather conditions during blossoming season make it impossible to estimate the crop now. In the western part of the State the apple set is generally light, on the Eastern Shore it is generally heavy. York Imperial and Ben Davis have a light set while Grimes and Stayman Winesap have a heavy set. Very heavy bloom on most varieties.

Virginia - G. S. Ralsion reporting.

Impossible to give an accurate estimate but prospects seem good for 65 per cent of a fruit crop. There was a heavy bloom and no frost injury.

West Virginia - H. W. Prettyman reporting.

Peaches, cherries and pears reported to be a full crop and apples 40 per cent of a crop.

North Carolina - C. D. Matthews reporting.

Preliminary reports show about 85 per cent of a crop of peaches and about 80 per cent of a crop of apples. The "Sandhills" expect to ship about 2,500 cars of peaches this year.

South Carolina - C. C. Newman reporting.

According to present information, the peach crop is about 78 per cent of normal and the apple crop in the northwestern part of the State about 70 per cent of normal.

Georgia - T. H. McHatton and G. H. Firor reporting.

Peaches promise about 80 per cent of a crop of better quality than the crops of 1922 or 1923. There will probably be 10,000 cars this season. One car was shipped from Fort Valley before May 28.

Florida - W. R. B.

Prospects are fair to good for the citrus fruit crop in Florida. Owing to the extremely heavy crop of grapefruit and oranges last season the set of new fruit is in some cases not quite so heavy this year. Considerable old fruit is still on the trees but the new crop is making a fair growth.

Tennessee - N. D. Peacock reporting.

The early apple and peach prospects are much better than last year. There will probably be 100 cars of early apples and 500 cars of peaches. The strawberry crop is very light.

Kentucky - C. W. Mathews reporting.

Scattering reports indicate two-thirds of a normal apple crop. Heavy rains during blooming apparently caused a lack of pollination. Elberta peach buds were badly winter injured and the crop is short. Other peach varieties have a better set and 50 per cent of a crop is expected.

Mississippi - Lyle Brown reporting.

In general, apples, pears, plums, peaches and grapes promise a normal crop. There will be practically no oranges, pomelos or quamquats on account of injury by cold weather. It is too early to forecast the probable pecan crop.

Ohio - F. H. Beach reporting.

Very backward cold and wet spring and blooming period not yet terminated, so it is not possible to forecast the possible fruit crop. Fruit buds of Elberta peach winter killed in northern and western Ohio. In southern Ohio early apples and some later ones, including Grimes have set a heavy crop. Rome Beauty promises a satisfactory crop now. Recent frosts have done considerable damage in central and northern Ohio.

Indiana - L. Greene reporting.

Approximately 50 to 75 per cent of last year's commercial apple crop. Stayman Winesap and Winesap promise a good crop. Grimes has a fine crop. Jonathan is rather light in southern Indiana. Recent frost injured strawberries badly around Lafayette.

Michigan - V. R. Gardner reporting.

Season so late and exceedingly cold that only the earliest blossoming apple varieties have opened a few blooms so a crop estimate cannot be made now. Peach fruit buds in southwestern Michigan winter killed and practically no crop is expected there. Farther north peach buds were not badly injured so there may be half a crop this year. Prospect for fruit crop normal except for peaches.

Illinois - W. S. Brock reporting.

Apple crop may reach 65 per cent of last year's crop. Yellow Transparent and Oldenburg are heavier in crop and better in quality than last year. Grimes has an excellent set, Johathan is spotted with perhaps less than one-third of the 1923 crop. In southern Illinois, fire blight has done 15 to 20 per cent of injury.

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Another Fruit Prospect Report.

Since the season has been so late and cold that few reliable fruit prospect reports could be made for this number of the "Extension Horticulturist," we will request the horticultural extension men throughout the country to be good enough to send in reports as of June 25 for the July 1 "Extension Horticulturist." Please do this even though you do have a report in this number.

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Dwarf Apple Trees.

Soon after our last item on dwarf apple trees appeared in the April 1, "Extension Horticulturist," we received letters from two nursery firms who have a considerable dwarf tree business. One firm buds from 10,000 to 20,000 dwarf stocks per year and this year had 19 varieties of apples on Doucin and Paradise stocks. The other firm buds from 20,000 to 25,000 dwarf apple stocks per year to 15 or more varieties. The price of number one grade trees is \$50.00 per hundred.

Those extension specialists who are skeptical about advocating the planting of dwarf apple trees in the home orchard should read the article by George T. Powell on the "Culture of Dwarf Apple Trees," in the Rural New Yorker of May 10, 1924. Mr. Powell is an authority on this subject.

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Orchard Spray Ring Bulletin.

The writing of an orchard spray ring bulletin is contemplated and the experience of extension men with spray ring activities is requested. The method of organizing spray rings, their management, the number in operation, together with the number of members in each state, their success or failure, and other information will be appreciated. Photographs of orchard spray rings in action are also desired. - C. P. C.

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Plans of Horticultural Work.

Some especially good plans of horticultural work have been received during May. These state the problems to be attacked, the solution or things to do to solve the problems, the method of working out the solution, the cooperating parties and duties of each, the goals to be achieved, and the

publicity to be used. These points clearly stated, together with maps showing in which part of the state each line of work will be done help to make a satisfactory plan of work.

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Dust Sprayers.

We are pleased with the response to our request in the May 1 "Extension Horticulturist," for information on dust sprayers and will give a resume of the letters received.

Mr. H. A. Cardinell of Michigan has considerable dusting demonstration work to control cucumber and melon aphid under way and has had experience with hand dusters for several years. He favors the bellows type for tree crops and prefers the "American Beauty" which he has used for four years. This retails at \$25.00. Others which he has used are the "Blue Beauty" (bellows type sold at \$20.00); "Nico Duster No. 3" (bellows type \$19.00); "Vermorel Orange" (bellows type, \$15.00); "Vermorel Double Action" (bellows type with continuous flow of dust, \$20.00); and "Niagara Blower Dust Gun" (fan type, \$21.00). The "Springfield" (fan type \$16.00), has not been used by Mr. Cardinell.

Prof. S. P. Hollister of Connecticut prefers the Niagara fan type to the American Beauty bellows type. The objection to the first is the noise and to the second the single action. Prof. Hollister will make a thorough test of 8 makes this season, 5 are the fan type and 3 the bellows type. He believes that hand dusters are the type to use for a few trees, a small garden, or a combination of both.

Messrs. C. B. Sayre and G. O. Randall of Illinois prefer the American Beauty bellows type. This type is easier to carry and operate than the fan type and is especially desirable for dusting plants grown in hills.

Prof. E. F. Guba of Cornell University, New York, in speaking for the Department of Plant Pathology says that he prefers the fan type of duster for small fruit trees because of the continuous flow of dust. The bellows type is desirable for crops grown in hills.

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Horticultural Extension Literature Received During May, 1924.
Connecticut Agricultural College, Storrs.

Cauliflower. Bul. No. 73, March 1924.

Florida University, Gainesville.

Grape Culture in Florida. Bul. 39, April 1924.

Indiana - Purdue University, Lafayette.

Beautifying the Home Grounds. Ext. Bul. No. 98, March 1924.

Maryland - University of, College Park.

More Vegetables from the Home Garden. Bul. No. 34, April 1924.

Missouri - University of, Columbia.

Record Book, Sweet Potato Growing, Boys' and Girls' Clubs.

Record Book, Grape Growing, Boys' and Girls' Clubs.

New York - Cornell University, Ithaca.

The Apple and Thorn Skeletonizer and Its Control. Ext. Bul. 86, May 1924.

Vermont - University of, Burlington.

General Spray Program for Vermont Orchards, March 1924.

Virginia - Agricultural and Mechanical College, Blacksburg.

The Propagation of the Common Fruits of Virginia. Bul. 87, Feb. 1924.

Lubricating Oil Emulsion for San Jose Scale Control - Mimeo. pamphlet.

